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CONTRA COSTA PARK AND RECREATION COUNCIL
P.O. Box 101, Walnut Creek, Calif.

NEWSLETTER
June, 1965

SAVING THE BAY

Mountains of rotting garbage, tons of rusting beverage cans, and millions of cereal packages are at this moment slowly settling into the marshland around San Francisco Bay. In a thousand-and-one offices plans are being laid to augment this tide of debris until the world-renowned Bay is merely a notation in an obsolete gazetteer.

A hundred square miles of this fabled water is destined to be replaced by vast gridiron patterns of tract housing, interlaced by festoons of freeways; winking, gyrating neon signs; another fifty thousand giant billboards; one hundred shopping centers, each surrounded by the traditional black wasteland of parking lot; one thousand more used car lots, distinguished by plastic pennants whirring and flickering in the gentle yellow breeze; and all the other unlovely manifestations of growth in the manner of the nineteen sixties. (The numbers are imaginary; their order of magnitude is not.)

That is, unless SB309, the MacAteer Bay Conservation Bill, becomes law. The bill is designed to halt the present indiscriminate filling and despoliation of the Bay. In place of piece-meal development entirely at the whim of local interests, SB309 would substitute regional planning of the entire Bay under one authority.

The bill has passed the State Senate. It now goes to the Assembly Committee on Municipal and County Government, headed by Assemblyman John T. Knox.

We have it on good authority that Bay conservationists who wrote to members of the committee received some discouraging replies. The bill could well come to grief at this stage of its progress. It is therefore most important that everyone who wants a San Francisco Bay instead of a San Francisco Drainage, Sewage Disposal, and Ship Canal should let the Committee know (a) that he/she wants a bay, (b) why he/she thinks the sacrifice of one of the world's scenic wonders for purely local gain is an outrageous prospect, and (c) how essential it is that the MacAteer Bill be made a law as written, without weakening amendments.

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The members of the Assembly Committee on Municipal and County Government are as follows: Assemblymen John T. Knox, Chairman... John P. Quimby, Vice Chairman (San Bernardino County)... Don A. Allen, Sr. (Los Angeles County)... Alfred E. Alquist (Santa Clara County)... Willie L. Brown, Jr. (San Francisco County)... Clair W. Burgener (San Diego County)... Eugene A. Chappie (Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Tuolumne, and Yuba Counties)... Gordon W. Duffy (Kings County)... John G. Veneman (Stanislaus County)... Charles Warren (Los Angeles County)... and George N. Zenovich (Fresno County).

Hearing date: June 3. Time: 7:30 p.m. Place: Room 5168, State Capitol, Sacramento. Address for all correspondence: Assembly Committee on Municipal and County Government, State Capitol, Sacramento, California 95814.

If, with your encouragement, SB309 clears this hurdle, it will pass almost at once to the Assembly Ways and Means Committee consisting of the following members: Assemblymen Robert W. Crown (Alameda County), Chairman...Burt M. Henson (Ventura County), Vice Chairman...Hale Ashcraft (San Diego County)... Anthony C. Beilenson (Los Angeles County)... Frank P. Belotti (Humboldt, Del Norte, Mendocino Counties) ... Carl A. Britchgi (San Mateo County)... John L.E. Collier(Los Angeles County)... Charles J. Conrad (Los Angeles County)... (Pauline L. Davis (Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehema, and Trinity Counties)...

Leroy F. Greene (Sacramento County)... Joseph M. Kennick (Los Angeles County)... Frank Lanterman (Los Angeles County)... Charles W. Meyers (San Francisco County)... James R. Mills (San Diego County)... Don Mulford (Alameda County)... Nicholas C. Petris (Alameda County)... Carley V. Porter (Los Angeles County)... Howard J. Thelin (Los Angeles County)... Jerome R. Waldie (Contra Costa County)... John C. Williamson (Kern County)... Gordon H. Winton, Jr. (Merced and San Benito Counties).

Again, it is essential for all--but all--who would save the Bay to act. What we have to do is this:

1) On or immediately after June 3, look in the newspapers to find out whether SB309 has passed the John T. Knox committee. If so...

2) Write to the chairman and members of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, expressing our concern for the future of the Bay, and urging them to speed passage of the bill. If the bill goes to the assembly...

3) Repeat step 2, substituting the names of any or all of the California State Assemblymen.

Please act. It's now or never.

LAS TRAMPAS FIELD TRIPS CONTINUE

Turning now to a more cheerful matter, field trips into the lovely Las Trampas region continue. The area is strongly favored for a major park of unsurpassed beauty. Anyone who hasn't taken one of the hikes is certainly missing a treat. For details of the expeditions call Al Rothman at 837-7117 or Dave Keating at 935-3439.

ANNUAL DINNER A SUCCESS

More than one hundred park and recreation minded people crowded into the Concord Inn for the Park Council annual dinner on May 7. Highlight of a busy evening's activities was the highly entertaining and instructive address given by our guest of honor, Dr. William Siri, President of the Sierra Club. Dr. Siri reported that conservationists are increasing in number ten times faster than the population and are becoming a political force to be reckoned with. And about time!

Officers elected for the coming year are President, Alvin A. Burton; Vice Presidents, Hulet C. Hornbeck, John Bryant, Albert J. Rothman, Blair Simpson, and Ted H. Wooten; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Kenneth C. Hallstone; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Richard Stansberry; Treasurer, Mrs. William Sattler.

Some of us have been thinking that a young people's organization under the sponsorship of the Park Council could provide recreation and conservation experiences for teen-agers which would help them develop into future conservation leaders. Some possible activities already suggested could be hikes and nature study, movies and slides, poster contest, preparation of exhibits, and service to the Park Council. Adult counselors could be drawn from Park Council membership and allied organizations with the young people selecting officers from their own members.

We would like your opinion in writing or by phone as to whether you approve and your suggestions and comments concerning such a group. Contact Marilyn Burton Tedesco (Mrs. Rocco) 151 Cafeto Court, Walnut Creek or phone her at 934-5716.

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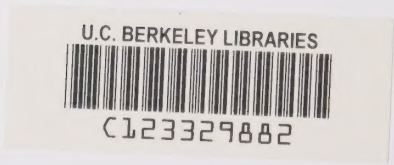

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